

SABIT

ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNOLOGIES PROGRAM FOR OIL SPILL CLEANUP

The U.S. Department of Commerce's Special American Business Internship Training (SABIT) Program is now developing an environmental program to train 18-20 specialists from the Russian Far East (RFE) in Oil Spill Cleanup. The dates of the program are March 10 - April 7, 2001. We are currently recruiting small, medium, and large U.S. companies and organizations to host and train the delegation for a period of 1-3 days.

Program Overview

SABIT, created in 1990, supports market access for U.S. companies interested in exporting goods and services to the NIS. At the same time, we assist economic restructuring in the former Soviet Union by organizing industry training programs in the United States for managers, engineers, and officials from the NIS. The program will begin with a one-week orientation in Washington, D.C. which will provide an overview of state and federal regulations, existing technologies, applications and standards. Presentations will be made by relevant federal and state agencies, industry associations, and various U.S. and multilateral funding agencies.

Program Goals and Topics

The orientation session will be followed by travel to the Florida and Texas Gulf Coast areas with attendance at the International Oil Spill Conference (IOSC) in Tampa, Florida as well as group training with environmental engineering and consulting firms, manufacturers of oil spill cleanup and monitoring equipment, environmental government and non-governmental organizations and industry associations. The delegation will also be exposed to American business practices, focusing on business and contract negotiations, and grant/proposal writing during the course of their training. The goal of this comprehensive program is not only to facilitate the evaluation, remediation, and monitoring of environmental problems in the RFE but also to promote U.S.- Russia trade in the environmental technologies sector. We will provide the delegation with "hands-on" exposure to HAZWOPER response protocols, in-situ treatment technologies at actual sites, and accepted standards for best practices here in the U.S.

The program topics will include:

- Oil spill cleanup methods for inland and coastal waters:
 - Burning
 - Mechanical
 - Chemical dispersants
- Pipeline and transport spills
- Bioremediation & crude oil reclamation
- Strategies for oil waste storage and disposal sites
- Prevention initiatives & contingency planning
- Reporting Spills & Spill Management
- Federal & state players, laws and regulations
- Wildlife protection & environmental recovery
- Personnel protection equipment and protocols
- Equipment manufacturing, R&D and product to market
- Public relations and communication systems

Benefits to U.S. Hosts

Training this delegation will provide a golden opportunity for U.S. companies interested in markets to establish valuable business contacts, networks, and partnerships with their counterparts in the NIS. To date, over 2,000 executives, managers, scientists and government officials have been trained under the SABIT Program. 70% of SABIT program participants maintain long-term business contacts with their host companies. Our programs have led to over \$196 million in U.S. export revenues. SABIT Alumni return to their home countries with a greater understanding of how their American counterparts do business. They often become clients or distributors of U.S. products and facilitate contacts between U.S. and NIS companies fostering market-based business climates. University and non-profit environmental hosts often benefit from the exchange of ideas and initiate international cooperative agreements with their Russian and NIS colleagues.

Program Financing

The Department of Commerce screens and selects all interns, who will travel on B-1 business visas. SABIT will cover the majority of program costs for all delegates, including round-trip airfare to the United States, all U.S. domestic air travel, housing, insurance, per diem for meals and incidentals, and interpreters to travel with each group. In turn, U.S. host organizations are asked to cover all costs of the training. For more information, please contact:

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